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Mythbusters: Misleading prevailing wage ads debunked

MADISON, Wis. – A claim by Protect American Jobs that a proposed bill repealing the state's prevailing wage law will allow undocumented immigrants to work on job sites across the state apparently has been debunked by the Wisconsin Legislative Council.

If the bill is passed by the Legislature, it will not affect an employer's responsibility, under federal law, to hire only authorized workers, [according to a memo](#) from the nonpartisan state agency.

"While the bill removes the requirement for employers to maintain certain records concerning wages paid to workers on a project of public works, that requirement relates only to enforcement of the prevailing wage law by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Department of Transportation (DOT)," the memo states.

"The repeal of that record-keeping requirement does not affect enforcement of federal immigration laws by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security," the memo also says.

Protect American Jobs has been running misleading television advertisements and making robocalls that claim repealing the prevailing wage law could allow out-of-state contractors to "exploit illegal workers to replace Wisconsin Construction workers."

Protect American Jobs advertises itself as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, [but its lawyer has admitted the group](#) has not filed any documents with the IRS seeking tax-exempt status.

By repealing the long-standing prevailing wage law that artificially inflates wages for government construction projects, the nonpartisan Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance estimates the state could save about \$200 million per year.

The Assembly Committee on Labor on Wednesday is expected to hold a public hearing and executive session on the full repeal of prevailing wage.

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